Remarks

The Present Invention and the Pending Claims

The present invention is directed to an improved method and system for initializing, allocating and de-allocating reservation protocol sessions between a plurality of media aggregation managers using a GUI.

Claims 4, 5, 24, 25 and 72-87 are currently pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 4, 5, 24, 25 and 72-87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Datta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,209,033).

Amendments To The Claims

Claims 4, 24, 76, 80, 84, currently amended.

Claims 5, 25, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86 and 87 are retained as presented in the last response.

Claims 1-3, 6-23, 26-71 are canceled.

Claim 4 is amended to recite "for selectively allocating or deallocating bandwidth between a first media aggregation manager and a second media aggregation manager." Support for the amendment is found at page 8, lines 4-7 and at page 15, lines 13-15 in the specification.

Claims 76, 80 and 84 are amended to recite "for selectively allocating or deallocating bandwidth between a first network device and a second network device." Support for the amendment is found at page 8, lines 4-7 and at page 15, lines 13-15 in the specification.

Claims 4 and 24 are amended to recite "displaying second graphical representations for allocating or deallocating bandwidth between the first media

aggregation manager and second media aggregation manager based on said displayed first projected link utilization schedule and said displayed second projected link utilization schedule." Support for the amendment is found at page 15, line 20 to page16, line 21; and page 17, lines 12 to 18 in the specification.

Claims 76, 80 and 84 are amended to recite "displaying second graphical representations for allocating or deallocating bandwidth between the first network device and second network device based on said displayed first projected link utilization schedule and said displayed second projected link utilization schedule." Support for the amendment is found at page 15, line 20 to page16, line 21; and page 17, lines 12 to 18 in the specification.

Claims 4, 24, 76, 80 and 84 are amended to recite "displaying first graphical representations" and "displaying second graphical representations." Support for the amendment is found at page 15, lines 10 to 15 in the specification.

The office action states: "**Claims 4-5, 24-25, 72-87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Datta et al, Patent #6209033".**

MPEP section 2131 provides, in pertinent part: "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference... The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ...claim".

In response to the rejection of claims 4, 24, 76, 80 and 84 over Datta, applicant's invention discloses a GUI that provides an interactive network map interface that allows a user to discover and explore VoIP networks across geographically distant user communities (Figure 1) using graphical representations (Figures 4, 5 and 6). Besides navigation, the GUI is also used for analyzing and selecting a path as well as initializing the selected path by simultaneously initializing the routers along the selected path and allocating "bandwidth" and "reservation sessions" over the selected path between the

media aggregation managers, all using a single GUI. Thus, the limitation "displaying second graphical representations for allocating or deallocating bandwidth" of claims 4, 24, 76, 80 and 84 is not described, either expressly or inherently in Datta. In contrast, Datta discloses a network management system with a user interface that acts as a static graphical display used only to navigate within the network model (col. 5, line 43 of Datta). Also, applicant's invention is distinguishable from Datta which does not disclose a GUI providing the ability to allocate reservation sessions over multiple paths. Datta merely teaches a network model analyzed is an autonomous LAN (col.5, line 26, Datta), where the bandwidth usage of a physical path is predicted. Hence, applicant's method of the use of GUI analyzing and selecting paths and implementing an RSVP session over the selected path is not anticipated by Datta.

The limitation of "the first and second media aggregation managers capable of serving as reservation session aggregation points on behalf of a first user community and a second user community, respectively, the first user community and the second user community communicatively coupled by a plurality of physical paths through which media packets may be exchanged by way of one or more packet forwarding devices" in claim 4 and claim 24 is not described either expressly or inherently in Datta. The present application, in part, integrates the media aggregation managers of applicant's related patent number US 7,013,338, titled "Multiplexing Several Individual Application Sessions over a Pre-allocated Reservation Protocol Session" .with the limitations recited in claims 4 and 24. The intelligence of media aggregation mangers is essential to model a reservation session, for example a resource reservation protocol session and allocate resource reservation sessions on the selected paths of the VoIP network. Thus, in applicant's invention, a reservation session is modeled between two media aggregation managers representing two endpoints. In contrast, Datta discloses analyzing a path between two nodes in a local area network to predict bandwidth usage, and does not disclose any means to allocate resources or model sessions. Hence, applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 and 24 are clearly distinguishable over Datta which does not teach allocating or modeling reservation sessions between media aggregation managers.

In applicant's invention, the media aggregation manager is an entity, present at the ingress/egress of a user community, which establishes reservation sessions, for example resource reservation protocol sessions between user communities and multiplexes plurality of application flows onto a single session, not requiring each VoIP connection (application flow) to establish its own link and maintain its own individual link. The GUI may be also used to view the properties of media aggregation managers and other nodes on a property window. For instance, "the property window for a media aggregation manager may indicate how many reservation protocol sessions it is maintaining" (page 18, line 13 in specification). The media aggregation managers are visually distinct from other nodes as represented in the network map of the GUI. Hence, applicant respectfully submits that applicant's invention which teaches the use of media aggregation managers to model reservation sessions on a VoIP network for analysis is also clearly distinguishable over Datta.

Applicant's invention relates to "selectively allocating or deallocating bandwidth between a first media aggregation manager and a second media aggregation manager", as recited in claim 4. The user analyzes a plurality of paths between any two media aggregation managers in an existing VoIP network configuration and selects a path from the prioritized list of paths. The path selection and initialization is conveyed to a user, using the same GUI by which the analysis was performed. The GUI is used to simultaneously initialize all the routers that make up the selected path. In contrast, Datta's network management system requires that alternative network configurations be defined by an administrator or data defining the alternative configurations be generated by the network administrator (col.7, line 21). In Datta, the network administrator is required to relocate/add/delete network entities. Although, a database of alternative configurations may be used to extract data, Datta's database only contains previous configuration data generated by the network administrator. Furthermore, applicant's means of using a GUI means to implement or initialize the desired configuration is clearly distinguishable over Datta. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 24, 76, 80 and 84 are novel over Datta et al., and the rejection of claims 4, 24, 76, 80 and 84 be withdrawn.

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Claims 5, 25, 77, 81 and 85 are dependent on claims 4, 24, 76, 80 and 84 respectively. Since claims 4, 24, 76, 80 and 84 are not anticipated by Datta et al., claims 5, 25, 77, 81 and 85 that are dependent on claims 4, 24, 76, 80 and 84 are also not anticipated by Datta et al. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claims 5, 25, 77, 81 and 85 are novel over Datta et al., and that the rejection of claims 5, 25, 77, 81 and 85 be withdrawn.

Claims 72, 74, 78, 82 and 86 are dependent on claims 4, 24, 76, 80 and 84 respectively. Since claims 4, 24, 76, 80 and 84 are not anticipated by Datta et al., claims 72, 74, 78, 82 and 86 that are dependent on claims 4, 24, 76, 80 and 84 are also not anticipated by Datta et al. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claims 72, 74, 78, 82 and 86 are novel over Datta et al., and that the rejection of claims 72, 74, 78, 82 and 86 be withdrawn.

Claims 73, 75, 79, 83 and 87 are dependent on claims 72, 74, 78, 82 and 86 respectively. Since claims 72, 74, 78, 82 and 86 are not anticipated by Datta et al., claims 73, 75, 79, 83 and 87 that are dependent on claims 72, 74, 78, 82 and 86 are also not anticipated by Datta et al. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claims 73, 75, 79, 83 and 87 are novel over Datta et al., and that the rejection of claims 73, 75, 79, 83 and 87 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If, in the opinion of Examiner Swearingen a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, Examiner Swearingen is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Apr. 30, 07

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